

ABSTRACT

The invention provides an efficient name-to-address discovery system for multi-network peer-to-peer communications. Common zones are created between two or more network groups to share name-to-address resolution resources. By establishing relationships between the servers managing each network, address discovery may be implemented across the common zone formed by the networks. This permits address resolution for peer-to-peer communications across different networks without reliance on a higher-level server common to both networks. Another aspect of the invention permits authorization-based relationships between servers thus restricting access to peers on a given network as desired.